The Artist and the Cat - Chapter 5

The artist takes Rita and Runt to the front yard where a black car is parked. He takes out his keys and unlocks the doors with the push of a button on a device that was attached to the keychain.

Rita: "Wow! I didn't get to see this last night! Your car is beautiful!"

Runt: "Yeah. It's a nice car. Definitely, definitely a nice car."

Artist: "I'm glad that you two love it. Rita was still asleep in my arms so I didn't have time to show it to you, Runt."

Runt: "Yeah, I remember that. She was so tired..."

Rita: "Wait... If you have this car, why didn't you use it to drive to the bridge last night?"

Artist: "There really isn't a place to park by the bridge so I decided to walk there by myself. Besides, it's good exercise to go for a walk whenever you get a chance."

Rita: "I see... It's actually a good thing that you care about your health, sweetie."

The artist opens the door on the left side of the car and lets Runt sit in the backseat. He puts a seatbelt around him to keep him safe and secure during the trip.

Artist: "I know that there are seats designed for dogs to use in the car, but this will have to do for now."

Runt: "That's okay. This actually feels pretty comfy."

Rita: "Can I sit up front with you, Mr. Artist?"

Artist: "Of course! You can sit in the passenger's seat next to me."

The artist opens the door on the right side of the car and picks up Rita. He carefully places the silver-haired beauty in the passenger's seat and helps her put on her seatbelt.

Rita: "Thank you, my love. You are really quite the gentleman."

Rita leans over to kiss the artist's cheek and he kisses her back. The artist then closes the door and goes around to the other side to sit in the driver's seat. He takes out his keys and puts in the ignition key to start the car.

Artist: "Now we let the engine run for a little bit and in the meantime, we can pick a radio station to listen to."

The artist starts to change stations until Rita tells him to stop at one that is playing

some relaxing music.

Rita: "I like this kind of music. It sounds really calming..."

Runt: "Yeah. I like it too. Definitely, definitely nice..."

Artist: "All right. It's time to go to the pet supply store. It's not too far away from here so it won't be a very long trip."

Rita: "Oh... Try not to drive too fast, okay? I don't want any of us to get hurt..."

Artist: "Don't worry, Rita. I don't drive very fast. I'm not a speed demon."

Rita: "That's a relief..."

As the artist drives out of the driveway and into the street, he notices Rita humming along with the song that is playing on the radio. He wanted to compliment her beautiful voice, but could not bring himself to interrupt the contented kitty. Runt was also having the time of his life listening to Rita's humming as it reminded him of a time long since passed. After several more minutes of driving, the artist finally reached their destination.

Artist: "Okay, guys. This is the place. Let's get you two some things that you'll need to begin your new life with me."

Rita: "All right. Is it okay if I sit on your shoulder?"

Artist: "Sure, Rita. Anything to make my girl happy..."

Rita: "Oh, you..."

Rita leaps up and the artist catches her and lets her rest comfortably on his shoulder. He then turns around and signals to Runt to follow along.

Artist: "Come on, Runt. Let's go inside."

Runt: "Okay!"

The trio get to the front door of the pet supply store and the artist slowly opens it. Once inside, Rita and Runt look in awe at all of things the place had to offer.

Rita: "Whoa... This place is amazing! Where do we start first?"

Artist: "I've been here a few times just to look at the pets so I know the layout of the place. We can start with the cat supplies right over there and then head for the dog supplies in the back."

Runt: "Cat? What cat? Where's the cat?"

Artist: "Don't be silly, Runt. Rita is a..."

Rita quickly puts her paw on the artist's mouth before he could utter another syllable.

Rita: "Sorry about that, hun. It's just that Runt thinks I'm a dog."

Artist: "Oh... So that's how you two get along. You should've told me sooner."

Rita: "I was going to, but the opportunity never came up. I'm sorry about covering your mouth earlier..."

Artist: "It's all right, Rita. I liked how your paw felt. So soft..."

Rita: "Aww... Don't make me blush in here."

Artist: "Sorry about that..."

Rita: "It's okay. Let's get our supplies now."

The artist with Rita still riding on his shoulder find an empty shopping cart and then head to the section for cat supplies with Runt following close behind.

Rita: "I'll need a scratching post, a bowl for water as well as one for food, some good quality cat food both of the wet and dry variety, and... Ooh! I want that!"

Rita notices a cute cat bed in a lovely shade of purple. The artist saw the pleading look in her emerald eyes and decided to buy it for her.

Rita: "Can you actually afford to buy all this stuff? I don't want you to be broke after all..."

Artist: "It's all right. Anything for my darling Rita. And besides, I did have some extra cash lying around."

The trio then headed to the section to get dog supplies for Runt. The artist picked up two bowls for food and water, some wet and dry dog food, a big and bouncy rubber ball, a leash for going on walks, and a dog bed big enough to fit him. Before they left the section, something big caught Runt's eyes.

Runt: "Ooh... I want that big bone! Definitely, definitely want it!"

Rita: "Heh. Go fig... Of course you'd want something like that..."

The artist sees the large rawhide bone that Runt was looking at and adds it to the already piling up shopping cart.

Runt: "What about you, Rita?"

Rita: "Nah, I'm good. I do wish there was yarn to play with..."

The artist looked around and saw that there was no yarn to be seen anywhere.

Artist: "Maybe I can buy you some this coming week. They do sell yarn at the local arts and crafts store where I buy my art supplies."

Rita: "You'd do that for me? Thank you so much!"

Rita couldn't help herself but kiss the artist on the cheek. Two young women saw the public display of affection and started making comments.

Woman A: "Isn't that sweet? That cat really loves her owner."

Woman B: "It's almost like they're a couple!"

Artist: "Rita... Now you're the one embarrassing me..."

Rita: "Sorry... I couldn't help myself... Let's go pay for these and get out before things get any more awkward..."

The trio head to the cashier to pay for all the items they picked out. She was a young lady about the same age as the artist.

Cashier: "Well... You're a new face. My name's Cindy. I recently started working here part-time. What's yours?"

The artist told her his real name and added that she could just refer to him as "Mr. Artist".

Cindy: "It's nice to meet you, Mr. Artist. And who are these two cuties?"

Artist: "This lovable fellow is Runt and this lovely lady on my shoulder is Rita. We met each other last night and I decided to take them both home with me."

Cindy: "Oh, that's sweet. The world really needs more people who will take care of strays. I wish I could, but my apartment unfortunately doesn't allow pets."

Rita starts to feel a bit jealous and licks the artist's cheek a few times to claim ownership of him.

Cindy: "Don't be jealous, kitty. I already have a boyfriend. He's studying to be a manager. As a matter of fact... Since you said that you are an artist, I want you to paint something for me."

Artist: "Really? What would you like me to paint for you?"

Cindy: "I'd love a nice painting of your new friends. I could hang it in my house somewhere."

Artist: "Won't your boyfriend get jealous though?"

Cindy: "Nah, he's not the jealous type. I'll even pay you if I really like it."

Artist: "All right. It's a deal then."

The artist and Cindy shake hands and then she rings up all of the items at the register.

Cindy: "Well... There's your total. Will that be cash or plastic?"

Artist: "Cash."

The artist takes out his wallet and pays for all of the items he picked up for Rita and Runt. While heading back outside, Cindy helps him open the front door so that he can carry the items to the car.

Cindy: "Have a nice day, Mr. Artist. Take care of those two precious souls and don't forget about my painting, okay?"

Artist: "Don't worry. I'll take care of them and I'll try to have your painting ready sometime this coming week."

The artist unlocks the car doors and opens the trunk. He starts to place most of the items inside and then puts Runt's bed in the backseat next to where Runt will sit.

Artist: "Well... We're all set. Let's head home, you two."

Runt: "Oh, boy. Put on my seatbelt!"

Rita: "Don't forget about me too..."

The artist fastens Runt's seatbelt and then carefully lowers Rita onto the passenger's seat and helps her put on hers. After everyone was finally seated, the artist turns on the car and the trio are now ready to head back home.

Rita: "I had a fun time today, Mr. Artist."

Runt: "Me too!"

Artist: "We can always come back to this place whenever we need to. But for now, all of this stuff should be enough. Let's head home!"

The artist turns on the car radio and the trio begin their drive home. What other adventures do Rita, Runt, and their new owner have in store on this second day of their newly formed friendship?